



Nunap ilaa ikinngutigisaq Sister Park Venskabspark Cooperative Arrangement

Between

Ilulissat Park Area, Greenland &
Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Alaska, USA

BACKGROUND:

A Joint Committee (JC) with the United States, Greenland and Denmark was created by the Economic and Technical Declaration signed by Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State of the United States of America, Per Stig Møller, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark and Josef Motzfeldt, Deputy Premier of the Greenland Home Rule Government in Igaliku on August 6, 2004. The purpose of the JC is to help realize mutual benefits and establish cooperation on, *inter alia*; research, environmental issues, development, education and tourism.

Under the auspices of the JC, officials of the U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service (NPS) and Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) - have enjoyed cooperation with representatives of the Greenlandic Home Rule Government Ministry of Environment and Nature and the Illulissat Museum under the direction of the Illulissat Municipality, concerning the management of national parks and other protected natural and cultural heritage sites for the purpose of conservation, recreation, and public education. Official delegations have visited between Greenland and the United States.

ILULISSAT PARK AREA IN GREENLAND AND CAPE KRUSENSTERN NATIONAL MONUMENT IN ALASKA are, in many ways, ecological and cultural "sisters". The highest priority goals of each area are to increase the knowledge and appreciation of both locals and visitors while protecting natural biodiversity and preserving archeological and historical sites.

Because of their locations in remote areas and limited access by road or usual methods of land transportation, these protected areas share similar problems of inaccessibility for park officials and visitors alike. Although primary plant communities, soils and animals may be of different types and origins, both locations are above the Arctic Circle and are characterized by Arctic flora and fauna. Both parks face common challenges including the effects of changing global climate, the potential impact from human activities on a fragile ecosystem, and the oversight of a large area with few staff. The employees of both parks share the common ideals of preservation, stewardship, cultural heritage and promotion of education and appreciation of the resources given to their care.

PURPOSE:

Each country acknowledges the importance and value of parks and, especially, world heritage sites. Through years of protecting and managing parks, each nation has gained precious experience. The purpose of this "sister park" relationship is to promote international cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries and to allow the protected areas to benefit by the sharing of experiences and approaches which enrich the personnel of both sister parks and improve the protection, preservation and management in a comprehensive way for the benefit of future generations.

These Sister Parks seek to enrich the experience and training of their personnel through projects of international cooperation. Examples of potential areas of cooperation may include:

- Encouragement of private and public partnerships including volunteer and "Friends" organizations for park support and local efforts to involve the surrounding communities in the development of compatible services and facilities to foster tourism and economic development.
- Increasing efforts toward the environmental education of school children and the general public so that their country's people can become committed partners in conservation.
- Exchanges for training purposes, especially for strengthening park ranger skills and recreation and ecotourism management and planning capacity.
- Providing law enforcement techniques, programs, and facilities.
- Sharing resource management methods, techniques and training.
- Exchanging best practices and technical information, including promotional material, professional knowledge, and software programs for science and resource management applications.
- · Linking websites.

A Biennial Action Plan can guide future cooperation and can be designed and accepted by the partners before submitting to the Greenland Home Rule government, Ministry of Environment and Nature and the Department of Interior, NPS, including the regional authority.

UNDERSTANDINGS:

Cooperation under this relationship is initially 5 years. The term may be extended or modified or cooperation may be discontinued at any time by either partner by written notification.

Both partners are to fund their own participation in this relationship. It is generally understood that when personnel of one country visit or are detailed to the other, the country sending the employee is to be responsible for the cost of travel to and from the receiving country and receiving country is generally responsible for travel and living expenses in their country: each exchange is to be negotiated individually and is dependent upon available resources.

Signed at Ilulissat, Greenland, on this 27, day of May 2007, in English.

On behalf of Cape Krusenstern National Monument Alaska

Ambassador James P. Cain

U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark

On behalf of Ilulissat Park Area Greenland

Deputy Minister Alfred Jakobsen Ministry of Environment and Nature

Greenland Homerule Government

Kirsten Strandgaard

Curator, Ilulissat Musuem

Anthon Frederiksen Mayor of Ilulissat